

# March 2006

## Central Valley Aviation News



An Official Publication Of The Fresno Flight Standards District Office  
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Newsletter Date March, 2006



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### SEMINARS ARE FREE

All seminars begin at 7:00 p.m. ending at 9:00 p.m. All venues are Fly-In/Drive-In. No reservations required. Your attendance at this seminar fulfills one of the requirements of the pilot proficiency award program (Wings Program). Completion of the requirements of the Wings Program, as outlined in AC 61-91H, will qualify you to receive a Wings lapel pin, ("Wings pins supplied by AVEMCO Insurance Company"), and a wall certificate. Registration details available at the seminar. For updates, contact the Fresno FSDO or INTERNET [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov) or E-mail: JAMES.A.HENRY @ FAA.GOV

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## Airport Traffic Patterns and Operations.

How many times have you approached an airport during the weekend and some \*&^% yo-yo cuts you off in the pattern? Well, if you were not practicing 'appropriate' traffic pattern procedures, you can't really gripe. Re-discover the 'correct' airport traffic procedures, for both controlled and non-towered airports.

**This month's scheduled topic** for our *Wings* seminars is very pertinent as the spring flying season begins.

The Fresno District is finding increased flight training activities in our geographical area, as many national and international flight schools, are beginning to discover the Central Valley.

Most district pilots are aware that IFTA (*International Flight Training Academy*) a subsidiary of All Nippon Airways operates out of Bakersfield Meadows Field. They have been in operation since the early '90's, and have been excellent neighbors. Their flight training operations are categorically professional.

Now we are finding two new schools that have opened shop at the Castle Airport in Merced/Atwater.

The schools are the *Sierra Academy of Aeronautics*, and the *American School of Aviation*. Us old-timers remember *Sierra Academy*, who

used to operate for years out of Oakland, Ca in the bay area.

Well, it seems that there is a large market and need for new pilots in the ever emerging nations of China and India.

If one has been reading the aviation trade journals, China's expanding cargo operations such as China Eastern Airlines of Shanghai; one observes how that company has been purchasing numerous new Boeing 747-400ER's. Naturally, these aircraft will require pilots, thus, the expected demand for newly trained pilots.

It is reported that the *Sierra Academy of Aeronautics* and the *American School of Aviation* are already operating 10-15 trainers at Castle Airport. This editor can verify that "*the pattern is full*". In fact very full, as I and another inspector flew into Castle the other day and we found ourselves number seven (#7) in the pattern.

Mind you we have met and discussed pattern issues with the Chief Flight Instructors, and their staff instructors.

We have found both schools flight operations are being run in a most professional manner, yet we remain concerned over the intensity of the traffic. We are especially concerned that some military aircraft will also use the field from time to time.

## Therefore

Our reasoning for this month's topic:  
**Airport Traffic Patterns and Operations.**

### PLUS

We will be holding a **Castle Airport Pilots "Town Hall Meeting" March 16<sup>th</sup>** to help establish good airport operating procedures.

So, Folks: The Central Valley's airports are becoming busier AND, as we all know, most all of the airports are UNCONTROLLED.

SO, attend this month's seminar series and get a good "SOP" Standard Operating Procedures review for when you fly into an uncontrolled airfield.

## Newsflash

Due to this editor's duty schedule, this newsletter is a bit late; however, I desire to report to you that last weeks "Town Hall Meeting" at Castle went off very well. We had more than 100 pilots in attendance. The topics discussed were vast and extensive.

As soon as Castle's airport manager publishes his airport "rules" we will be posting them on the faasafety.gov website. In the meantime, if you fly to Castle, be well aware of the extensive student training that is on going.

### Remember:

**April 22 & 23 "Wings Weekend"**



### Wings Awards

Pilot	Wings	Date	Instructor
Mr. Roger H. Christy	XIII	November, 2005	Commercial Pilot ck.
Mr. Leonard E. Powell	X	December, 2005	Howard,N
Ms. Alison G. Dale	XIV	January, 2006	Garrison,D
Mr. Wayne A. Easley	VI	January, 2006	Simuflight
Mr. Doug Ely	VII	January, 2006	E,Penaloza,E
Mr. Jeff A. Kutsch	XVIII	January, 2006	Schwoerer,R
Mr. David S. McKamey	I	January, 2006	Andrews,K
Mr. Phillip Pistoiresi	I	January, 2006	Hedrick, B
Mr. David W. Plyler	I	January, 2006	Webster,D
Mr. Jimmy L. Shamp	XIII	January, 2006	DeCosta, L

### March, 2006 Seminars

March Topic: *"Airport Traffic Patterns & Operations"*

March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23
<b>No Seminar</b>	<b>Bakersfield (BFL)</b>	<b>Atwater (MER)</b>	<b>Fresno (FCH)</b>
	<i>"Airport Traffic Patterns &amp; Operations"</i>	<i>"Airport Traffic Patterns &amp; Operations"</i>	<i>"Airport Traffic Patterns &amp; Operations"</i>
	Kern Cty Sheriff's Cplex, Training Bld.	2305 Jetlift Dr. Castle Airport	<i>"Runway Café will be open"</i> Chandler Admin. Bld.
	7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.